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The Writers' Room

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Episode 05: Who's to Blame

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EPISODE 5: Who's To Blame

Standards of Behavior contains mature language, content and themes. Please listen with care.

31. Will is on a bridge above a river. Faint sound of WATER.

WILL

Why does every damn move I make
have to be the wrong move? Can't I
just do something right for once?
Fucking embarrassing... Why did I
even go to her house in the first
place...

Paced FOOTSTEPS approaching. Roy runs up to
Will.

WILL

Oh, hey Roy. What're you doing
going on a run over here?

ROY

Eh, gym was too crowded so I
figured I might as well enjoy the
nice day.

WILL

Yeah, I don't blame you. It's
beautiful out. Although... This isn't
your typical Friday afternoon
activity.

ROY

What, a guy can't take a day off of
the day drinking and enjoy a nice
jog?

WILL

(chuckling)

Just surprised, that's all.

ROY

I'm a little surprised too if we're being honest. But enough about me, what're you doing over here?

WILL

Oh, I don't know. I just wanted to get off campus for a bit. Getting tired of the same scenery, you know?

ROY

Yeah, I guess that's kinda why I decided to venture out on this run. Except now I'm tired and have to run all the way home... wish me luck.

WILL

Yeah, have fun with that one. I'll see you when I get home later.

ROY

Why don't you just run back with me? We're going to the same place so you might as well keep me some com -

PAUSE.

ROY (CON'D)

Wait... what're you doing holding Penny's ring? How did it go at her house?

WILL

Terrible.

ROY

Sooo are you going to tell me about it or what?

WILL

I don't think it could've gone worse, if I'm being honest.

ROY

Alright, dude, tell me what happened.

WILL

I don't know... I guess I should've known that her mom would cover for her, but I just wanted to talk to her for a sec. (Imitating Penny's mother) "I'm sorry, Will. Penny's not home. Thanks for stopping by, though... It was nice to see you again." (Will resumes normal voice). So yeah... I'm sure it was a real thrill for her. Clearly she was fine with pretending that Penny's car "wasn't home" either.

ROY

Shit... I'm sorry, dude.

WILL

I just don't understand why she doesn't want to at least talk about it. I understand that she doesn't want to get back together... But this is a big deal, right? How can she just unload this on me through a voicemail and expect me not to want to talk to her?

ROY

I don't know, man. I'm sure Penny is trying to deal with this in her own way. Maybe once she's at peace she'll be able to talk to you about it.

WILL

If that was the case, she could have just told me. She could have given me something... instead of just ignoring me.

PAUSE.

WILL

I guess there's no sense in holding onto the ring anymore. I know I'm lying to myself to find just an ounce of hope, but I just thought if I went to see her we could talk about the voicemail. I thought maybe I could even find out who did this to her... But then what would I do? Turn him in? Pretend that nothing ever happened? Pretend that, at one point, there wasn't a chance that she was carrying my child?

PAUSE.

WILL (CON'D)

I guess there's nothing I can do...
If she wants to move on without me,
there's nothing I can do.

Will throws ring into water. PLOPPING NOISE in water.

ROY

Dude... why'd you throw it?

WILL

I just need a fresh start. I don't wanna look at it anymore.

ROY

(sarcastically)

Well, shit... you could've just returned it...

31. Papers SHUFFLING

HEARING MODERATOR

Mr. Thomas, I know I've asked you a lot of questions -

WILL

(Understanding tone)

But you have more. I know.

HEARING MODERATOR

Just do your best. I know it's been a stressful time for everyone involved.

WILL

That's an understatement.

HEARING MODERATOR

I know - and I'm sorry you have to sit through all these questions, I'm sure it's tough.

WILL

Yeah... I get it.

HEARING MODERATOR

Okay... Now, I'd like to ask you a bit more about Jack. After all, he did, somehow, end up in your bedroom. How was his behavior when the party started? Did it seem like anything was strange? Was there anything he said that stood out to you? Anything about his demeanor?

WILL

Honestly, no. And I wasn't paying too much attention to him because I wasn't expecting to find him dead the next morning.

HEARING MODERATOR

Will you walk me through the start of the party, Mr. Thomas?

WILL

It started out as just a normal
Friday night -

32. FLASHBACK. Different INTRO SNIPPETS of songs.
Spotify COMMERCIAL.

WILL

God damn it, I hate these stupid
commercials.

ALLISON

I have premium, you know. You don't
have to deal with all those
commercials.

WILL

Yeah... but I make better playlists.

ALLISON

You were just playing Friday by
Rebecca Black... I highly doubt your
playlists are better than mine...

WILL

Okay okay, that one was a joke.
Everyone thought it was funny.

ALLISON

You're hysterical. Just share your
playlists with me so I can play
them without the commercials.

WILL

Alright I suppose I could do that.
But don't go playing your own
music, we want people to actually
stay at the party.

ALLISON

Hilarious... so funny, you are.

WILL
You know me.

PAUSE.

Hey... thanks again for coming. I
know you were a little wary of
going out, but it'll be a fun
night.

ALLISON
(Jokingly)
Well, Charlie and Sofi pretty much
dragged me here. But, you're
welcome I guess.

WILL
(Laughing)
Jesus, Allison, you can at least
pretend you actually wanted to come
to party.

ALLISON
(Sarcastically)
I kid, I kid. I wanted to come... I
guess... A little... not really.

WILL
(Sarcastically)
That was the nicest thing you've
ever said to me.

33. FLASHBACK PAUSES.

HEARING MODERATOR
So... that's it? Playlists and
alcohol are good context, but I'd
like to know more about what people
were actually doing at the party.

WILL
With respect, I wasn't finished.

FLASHBACK RESUMES. Muffled MUSIC.

CHARLOTTE

Will! Where's the jungle juice that Roy made? I heard it's really good.

WILL

I don't know if "really good" is how I would describe it, but it's over there on the counter.

CHARLOTTE

Oh okay thanks!

ALLISON

It actually was pretty good. I had a couple sips of Sofi's.

WILL

(Jokingly)

Will you back me up at least once?

ALLISON

(Laughing)

Sorry, maybe next time. There's a lot of people here... did you invite them all or did they just show up?

WILL

Everybody caught wind of the music I was playing and decided they had to come to the party of the semester.

ALLISON

(laughing)

Will you get a grip?

WILL

I'm kidding. No, most of them just kinda showed up... I don't know half of these people. It's a lot bigger than I wanted it to be, but hey,

WILL (CON'D)
we're only here for four years,
right?

ALLISON
Yes. Four long years.

WILL
(Jokingly)
Maybe if you left home every once
in a while the years wouldn't seem
so long.

ALLISON
You may have a point there... Well,
I'm here now!

WILL
And how much convincing did that
take?

ALLISON
Oh, shut it.

Slightly stumbled FOOTSTEPS.

JACK
Oh, sweet. I knew there'd be beer
in the kitchen! Yo, Will, will you
toss me a Natty?

WILL
Yeah for sure, dude.

ALLISON
I'll catch up with you in a bit,
Will. I'm gonna go over there with
Charlie and Sofi.

WILL
Okay! I'll be around!

FLASHBACK ENDS.

34. PAPERS SHUFFLING.

HEARING MODERATOR

Any idea what Allison was
discussing with Charlotte and Sofi?

WILL

Maybe that's a question for them?
Anyways, I handed Jack a beer and
he walked off to go talk to someone
else. That's it.

HEARING MODERATOR

Alright, alright. But maybe you
could tell me why Allison left the
room so abruptly?

WILL

Yeah, I asked her about that later.
It didn't seem like anything was
wrong, but I asked her anyways. I
guess she just had to go to the
bathroom and she asked Charlotte
and Sofi to go with her.

HEARING MODERATOR

Okay, and how did you think Allison
was acting previously? Before she
went to the restroom with Charlotte
and Sofi, that is. Was she visibly
upset at all?

WILL

No... not that I noticed. Yeah... I
can't think of a reason why she
would be upset...

35. FLASHBACK. Birds CHIRPING.

WILL

Allison, what's up! Where ya headed
to?

ALLISON

Oh, just walking home. I just got out of class.

WILL

Well come up here and sit with me! It's so nice outside, we have to enjoy the weather while it lasts.

More birds CHIRPING.

ALLISON

Yeah, okay.

Allison walks up the stairs to the porch and sits down next to Will.

WILL

How was class?

ALLISON

It was okay. I just got an exam back from last week and I didn't do as well as I thought I did... seems to be the trend with me this semester.

WILL

Oh, come on, Allie. All you do anymore is study.

ALLISON

Yeah, I know. That's the annoying part. I don't even know why I try so hard anymore. It doesn't seem to be making a difference.

WILL

You'll get the hang of it. Senior year isn't as easy as everyone has made it out to be, that's for sure.

ALLISON

That's an understatement.

PAUSE.

ALLISON (CON'D)

Anyways, enough of that. Where's Roy?

WILL

Not too sure, probably hanging out with Sofi. The usual. Actually, she might be coming over later for pizza and Smash Bros. You wanna join?

ALLISON

Oh, I don't know... I've been so busy lately and I should really stay in and get some work done.

WILL

Oh, come on! You're stressing yourself out over school and not giving yourself any time to have fun. That can't be good for you, if you ask me.

ALLISON

(Jokingly)

Oh, so you know what's good for me, now do you?

WILL

(Laughing)

At least promise me that you'll think about it and that you won't totally sweep it under the rug. I hardly ever see you anymore.

ALLISON

Yeah, yeah... okay. I'll think about it, but no promises.

WILL

I guess that's better than nothing,
I'll take it.

LONG PAUSE.

WILL

Allie, are you sure everything is
okay with you? You seem so quiet
lately and I hardly ever see you
anymore. I mean, I know you've been
spending more time studying and
working on your classes... but, I
don't know. It really just seems
like something has been on your
mind lately.

ALLISON

No... nothing in particular has
really been on my mind. I'm fine.

WILL

(Lightheartedly)

You don't really think I'm that
stupid, do you? Come on, you're
basically my sister. I can tell
when something is wrong.

PAUSE.

WILL (CON'D)

Allison... come on. You can tell
me anything, you know that.

ALLISON

(Draws in a long deep breath)

Okay... okay... but you have to promise
not to tell anyone. Seriously,
Will. No one can know. No one does
know. I'm serious.

WILL

I won't tell, just please spit it out... you're starting to worry me.

ALLISON

A couple semesters ago... It was kind of a while ago... but I don't know. Lately it's just been taking over me...

PAUSE.

ALLISON (CON'D)

I was at a party. I don't think you were there. I didn't see you. But I know I got way too drunk. Someone... someone took me home. I just thought he was being nice and trying to take care of me. I don't know, it's all a little blurry. But... he brought me to my room, and...

WILL

Who. Tell me who it was, Allison.

ALLISON

It all happened so fast... and I didn't really know what was happening... until it was actually happening.

WILL

Allison. Who took you home.

ALLISON

I didn't know what to do. I tried-

WILL

You have to tell me who it-

ALLISON

He, he raped me, Will.

LONG PAUSE. Allison begins to CRY.

ALLISON (CON'D)

(Muffled, speaking through tears)

I didn't know what to do. I tried to tell him that I didn't want to, but he wouldn't stop. He told me it was okay. And I... I don't know, Will. I was scared. I shouldn't have drank so much. This never would have happened if I didn't fucking drink so much that night.

WILL

Please don't say that... Please please don't say that, Allison. This isn't your fault, you can't blame yourself... I'm so sorry, Allison.

ALLISON

It's all I ever fucking think about anymore. I can't get it out of my head no matter how hard I try, and I just don't know what to do anymore.

WILL

Allie...

ALLISON

I hate him. I hate him so much. I fucking hate him for making me this way.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

36. Papers SHUFFLING.

HEARING MODERATOR

Mr. Thomas... MR. THOMAS! You're sure
that nothing else was going on with
Allison? That she wasn't upset or
bothered by anything?

WILL

Yes... yeah I'm sure.